

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/042/2002

1 March 2002

Further information on EXTRA 13/02 (AMR 51/026/2002, 7 February 2002) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Texas)Monty Allen Delk (m), white, aged 34

Monty Delk was executed in Texas on 28 February 2002. He was sentenced to death in 1988 for the 1986 shotgun murder of Gene Olan Allen. Monty Delk was 19 years old at the time of the crime.

Monty Delk's lawyer had raised serious doubts about his client's competency to be executed, that is whether he understood the reason for and reality of his punishment (see original EXTRA). Doubts about Monty Delk's sanity caused a federal judge to order a stay of execution on 27 February, in order to conduct a hearing with mental health experts. However, the State of Texas appealed the decision to the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. About four hours before the scheduled execution, the Fifth Circuit lifted the stay.

Strapped down for execution, Monty Delk reportedly shouted gibberish and obscenities, blurting out: "You are not in America. This is the island of Barbados. People will see you doing this." When the prison warden asked him if he had a final statement, Monty Delk reportedly replied: "I am the warden. Get your warden off this gurney and shut up." He was then lethally injected.

This was the 12th execution in the USA this year, and the sixth in Texas. Since the USA resumed executions in 1977, 761 men and women have been put to death, 261 of them in Texas.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.